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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
Held via ZOOM virtual conference at 4:00 PM
Tuesday May 25, 2021

In attendance were, Chairman Reverend Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Dr. Phillip Dougherty, Board Members, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Richard Carpenter, Mr. Jamal Abodalo, Mr. Earl Lucas and Mr. Dan Luckey, RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Maintenance and Operations Mr. Gary Phillips, Distribution Superintendent Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Administrator Mrs. Sue Ruotolo, Human Resources Manager Mrs. Wendalin Marrero, Plant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Bauer, Engineering Manager Mr. Yuri Evans, Accounting Manager Mrs. Sandie Kieffer, Meter Reading Manager Mrs. Amy Styer, Customer Service Manager Ms. Tracey Karish, Mr. Brian Hassinger and Ralph Johnson from SSM Engineering..

Meeting was brought to order at 4:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the April 20, 2021. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mr. Abodalo. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve payment of the May 25, 2021 invoices, for General Fund in the amount of \$611,087.39 Capital Fund in the amount of \$182,138.58 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$35,518.78. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and second by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve the payments of the May Invoices as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chairman McCracken reviewed from the previous meeting the need to advertise for the Engineering RFP's. A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Dr. Dougherty. Mr. Abodalo asked what the differences were for the 2 RFP's. Mr. Murray explained that one is for the Projects and the other is for the day-to-day Engineering services. Mr. Murray explained that we are better served if we can break the services into 2 different firms. Mr. Abodalo asked if we were choosing the firms on their qualifications or their rates. Mr. Murray said that the board does not have to pick the lowest bidder, and it is their decision with some recommendations from himself. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken went over the decision to remain with Attorney Stock for the next 3 years and then consider a RFP at that point. Mr. Abodalo agreed that was the decision. Mr. Luckey stated that he would of liked to see that a RFP would be advertised stating that the last administration's issue was that they had not done this over the years. Mr. Murray agreed that the last administration did not do that, but at this point this administration is best to keep the current Solicitor because of the current situations. Mr. Abodalo asked if there is 2 motions on the table, and Chairman McCracken said no there is 1 motion on the floor to retain Attorney Stock for 3 years and then to advertise through a RFP. A motion was made by Mr. Abodalo and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor, with Mr. Luckey stating he is agreeing but not in total agreement. Motion passed. Chairman McCracken asked that the board meeting for June be attended by any Board member that feels comfortable to be in person. A few members agreed to meet in person, and a few are not willing to come into the office yet. Chairman McCracken also noted that the meeting would still be offered through Zoom.

Mr. Luckey complimented Mr. Murray and his staff on the recent emergency that Western Berks Water Authority experienced.

Mr. Murray asked for approval of the payments of the Filters 2 & 4 rehabilitation in the amount of \$91,260.00. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve the payment. Mr. Abodalo asked what the project was for. Mr. Murray explained it is a complete rehabilitation of the filter plants, that was suggested RAWA do by DEP. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray asked for a motion to approve the purchase/installation of the Water Distribution Monitoring system. They are panels for the SCADA system, a budgeted amount for \$15,000 and the quoted amount is \$10,000. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray asked for a motion to approve the approval to replace the Sludge Feed Limitorque, it was budgeted for \$13,750 and the quote was \$14,165.00 a motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray asked for a motion to approve the removal of the Gas and Deisel tanks. The budgeted amount was \$40,000, and the quote is \$19,410.00 with the RAWA crew helping with breaking out the concrete and working with the vendor. Motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mr. Lucas. Mr. Abodalo asked if this scope of work is replacement – Mr. Murray said no this is removing the tanks according to the DEP regulations. The professional company will work with getting all required certifications issued. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray went over the Hydrant painting and flow testing that was recently completed. The painting will be done in accordance with the Fire Department. It will be approximately a 5 year project to complete all hydrants throughout the city. Penn Street is the first area being completed. Everything will be logged into the GIS system.

Mr. Murray went over the recent cooperative project of filling potholes in the city of Reading with Public Works and some utilities. It was a success and will be done one more time to get as many holes filled as possible.

Mr. Murray discussed the recent tragedy at involving Western Berks Water Authority. He reviewed what the team encountered when they arrived at the scene and how proud he was of the entire RAWA team while dealing with this tragic situation. Mr. Johnson from SSM Engineering also commented on the great work that was done between all parties involved in getting the water restored in a timely fashion and the professionalism of everyone involved.

Mr. Hassinger asked for approval of the Contractors payment Application #2 to MAS General Contractor in the amount of \$15,750.00. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mr. Lucas. All in favor. Motion passed.

Attorney Stock reviewed the agreement to provide Mr. Haring a lump sum settlement for the North Heidelberg property in the amount of \$42,774.00. A motion was made by Mr. Luckey and seconded by Dr. Dougherty. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn at 4:54 pm by Dr. Dougherty.